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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4036

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway, Ormsby, Dickerson, Green, Chase, Wood, Morrell, Sells, Appleton, McDermott, Cody, Simpson, Hasegawa and Hudgins

Read first time 01/19/2006. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2            AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3            REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4            UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6            the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7            represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the  
9            National Labor Relations Act, giving private sector employees the right  
10           to form unions and bargain collectively with their employers; and

11           WHEREAS, In 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations  
12           adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which  
13           includes Article 23, providing for worker rights to just and favorable  
14           conditions of work and to form and join trade unions for the protection  
15           of worker interests; and

16           WHEREAS, Worker rights to form and join unions are increasingly  
17           eroded in the United States, according to the 2000 Human Rights Watch  
18           Report, by the failure of federal labor laws to provide adequate,  
19           timely, and just remedies for violations; and

1       WHEREAS, Surveys of workers completed in February 2005 show that  
2 fifty-seven million nonunion workers would like to join a union, these  
3 same surveys cite employer union avoidance tactics as the principal  
4 reason that workers who say they want a union do not have a union; and

5       WHEREAS, In 2003, more than twenty-three thousand workers won  
6 compensation after being fired or punished for union activity, an  
7 illegal act that may occur in at least twenty-five percent of union  
8 organizing drives; and

9       WHEREAS, Federal law allows employers to refuse to recognize a  
10 union even when all of its employees have signed union authorization  
11 cards and even though most employers who used neutrality agreements or  
12 card check agreements report that the agreements resulted in improved  
13 relations with the union and more resources devoted to other business  
14 goals; and

15       WHEREAS, Even after workers vote to have a union, delays in  
16 reaching an initial contract can deny workers the benefit of collective  
17 bargaining, a situation that may occur in nearly one-third of  
18 negotiations for initial contracts; and

19       WHEREAS, Federal law provides no effective remedy for the failure  
20 of an employer to bargain in good faith, since such a charge is  
21 difficult to prove and typically will not be resolved in the courts for  
22 several years; and

23       WHEREAS, Unions in the public sector covering federal workers are  
24 also in the public interest because they cause wages and living  
25 standards to rise and they can safely monitor the federal government,  
26 protecting the interests of taxpayers and clients alike; and

27       WHEREAS, The proposed personnel regulations at the Department of  
28 Homeland Security and the proposed National Security Personnel System  
29 at the Department of Defense threaten to remove fundamental collective  
30 bargaining rights and protections provided by federal sector unions;  
31 and

32       WHEREAS, Public services will suffer as a result of public servants  
33 feeling less able to come forward to expose public waste, fraud, and  
34 abuse that harms taxpayers and clients;

35       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
36 States Congress protect worker rights by enacting the Employee Free  
37 Choice Act, S. 842 or H.R. 1696, or substantially similar legislation

1 and by opposing the National Security Personnel System and similar  
2 personnel regulations proposed for federal civilian workers at the  
3 Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies.

4 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
5 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
6 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
7 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
8 Washington.

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